

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 103434  
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:TNILES

APPROVED BY:IO/SA:EMICHAL

S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----014670 220816Z /11

P 220454Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103434

HOLD FOR SECRETARY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 780 ACTION SECSTATE AND USUN NEW  
YORK INFO BONN, DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LONDON,  
LUSAKA, MAPUTO, OTTAWA, PARIS, PRETORIA, AND GENEVA DATED  
APRIL 19, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEW SECURITY PROCLAMATION

1. ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL M.T. STEYN ISSUED A SPECIAL  
SECURITY PROCLAMATION APRIL 18 WHICH WILL GIVE HIM WIDE  
POWERS TO DETAIN NAMIBIANS WHOM HE CONSIDERS A DANGER TO  
PEACE AND SECURITY.

THE "DETENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE  
AND INTIMIDATION PROCLAMATION, 1978" GIVES STEYN THE  
POWER TO ISSUE A WARRANT FOR THE INDEFINITE PREVENTIVE  
DETENTION OF ANY PERSON. STEYN HIMSELF MUST SIGN EACH  
WARRANT AND CANNOT DELEGATE THIS RESPONSIBILITY. DETAINEES  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 103434

WILL HAVE NO RECOURSE TO THE COURTS, AND WHILE THEY  
MAY MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO A SPECIAL THREE-MAN  
REVIEW COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE'S SECRET FINDINGS  
WILL NOT BE BINDING ON THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL.  
ACCORDING TO THE PROCLAMATION, CONDITIONS OF DETENTION  
WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE A-G, BUT DETAINEES  
ARE TO BE VISITED AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE DAYS BY

A DOCTOR AND EVERY TWO WEEKS BY A MAGISTRATE.  
DETAINEES' FAMILIES ARE TO BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR  
ARREST, AND TOLD WHERE THE DETAINEE IS BEING HELD.  
THE DETAINEE HIMSELF WILL BE FURNISHED "AS FAR AS POSSIBLE"  
WITH THE REASONS FOR HIS DETENTION.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION'S  
RELEASE, STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE NEW MEASURE  
WAS AIMED AT PRESERVING THE WESTERN INITIATIVE AND ITS  
GOAL OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR THE TERRITORY. HE  
ADDED THAT THE PROCLAMATION WAS AIMED AT INDIVIDUALS,  
AND NOT AT ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY. THE PRESS  
ALSO QUOTED DIRK MUDGE AS SAYING "SHOULD THEY (THE NEW  
MEASURES) NOT SUCCEED, EVEN MORE SEVERE MEASURES SHOULD  
BE TAKEN."

3. AN OFFICIAL AT THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE  
TOLD US THAT NO ARRESTS UNDER THE NEW PROCLAMATION HAVE  
YET BEEN MADE. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE TERRORISM ACT  
AND OTHER SECURITY LEGISLATION HAD NOT BEEN REPEALED,  
THE A-G'S HOPE WAS THAT THEY WOULD NOW NO LONGER BE  
USED. THE STATUS OF PERSONS PRESENTLY HELD UNDER  
SUCH LAWS, HOWEVER, IS NOT AFFECTED.

4. DURING FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER  
APRIL 17, FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA INFORMED BRITISH  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 103434

AMBASSADOR SIR DAVID SCOTT THAT THIS ACTION BY THE A-G  
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. BOTHA UNDERSCORED THAT SWAPO  
WOULD NOT BE BANNED; STEPS TAKEN UNDER THE NEW MEASURE  
BY THE A-G WOULD BE APPLIED TO ANYONE INCLUDING WHITES  
AND NON-SWAPO BLACKS WHO WERE THREATENING THE PEACE.  
BOTHA ADDED THAT THE TERRORISM AND INTERNAL SECURITY  
ACTS AS APPLICABLE TO SOUTH WEST WOULD BE REPEALED.  
BOTHA EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE WESTERN FIVE WERE TO ASK  
THE SAG TO RESCIND THIS MOVE, THIS WOULD MAKE IT  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM (BOTHA) VIS-A-VIS HIS COLLEAGUES.  
THE SAG, HE EMPHASIZED, WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REVERSE  
THE DECISION.

5. COMMENT: THIS STEP IS LIKELY TO BE SEIZED BY  
SWAPO AND ITS PROPONENTS AS ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF SOUTH  
AFRICA'S PERFIDY AND INSINCERITY. MORE IMPORTANT WILL  
BE WHETHER AND HOW STEYN EXERCISES HIS NEW AUTHORITY.  
IF, AS IS QUITE POSSIBLE, THERE ARE NOW EXTENSIVE  
DETENTIONS OF SWAPO ADHERENTS IN NAMIBIA, THERE WILL  
BE A NEW OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS ON THE WESTERN PROPOSAL.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP

CONSIDER AN INSTRUCTION TO THE CAPE TOWN FIVE TO APPROACH  
BRAND FOURIE ON THIS ISSUE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:  
ASSUMPTION BY THE AG OF ORDINARY POLICE POWERS IN  
NAMIBIA WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE WESTERN PROPOSAL.  
HIS ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY TO DETAIN WITHOUT TRIAL OR  
CHARGE, HOWEVER, IS CERTAIN TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES AND  
COMPLICATIONS IN THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT ON THE  
PROPOSAL. IT WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, BE EXPLOITED DURING THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION TO CAST DOUBT ON SAG  
INTENTIONS AND THE ACCEPTABILITY OF JUDGE STEYN AS AG.  
THE FIVE UNDERSTAND THE LAW AND ORDER DIFFICULTIES FACED  
BY THE AG, BUT URGE THAT THE AG REFRAIN FROM EXERCISING  
HIS POWERS UNDER THE NEW PROCLAMATION OR, IF THIS IS  
CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE, THAT HE EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 103434

ASSUMPTION OF POLICE AND JUSTICE RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE  
AG AND REPEAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TERRORISM AND INTERNAL  
SECURITY ACTS AS RELEVANT TO NAMIBIA WOULD BE WELCOME MOVES.  
NELSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, POLICIES, POLITICAL STABILITY, DETENTION, THREATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE103434  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO/UNP:TNILES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780172-0444  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780427/aaaaawrw.tel  
**Line Count:** 140  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 560d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2878955  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: NEW SECURITY PROCLAMATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, SHUM, WA, (STEYN, M T)  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/560d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014